

## *No. 35 – Tule River Integrated Regional Water Management Region*

### Region Acceptance Process Summary

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#### **General Description of Region**

The Tule River Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region is in the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region. The IRWM Region covers the lower Tule River and Deer Creek watersheds. This Region uses the geographic line that separates foothills and mountain areas from the valley lands as its east boundary, and uses the Tulare/Kings county line as the Region's west boundary, except the extension area of the Angiola Water District to Kings County. The Tule River IRWM Region's northern boundary and southern boundary border the Kaweah River Basin and Poso Creek IRWM Regions, respectively.

The Tule River Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) consists of eight irrigation/water supply districts, Tulare County, and the City of Porterville. All are local public agencies that have statutory authority over water supply or water management. An IRWM Plan has not been developed for the Tule River IRWM Region. However, the RWMG has been working with the Kaweah River Basin IRWM Region to ensure coordinated planning.

#### **Interview Conclusions**

The IRWM region was granted conditional acceptance in the 2009 Region Acceptance Process. The IRWM region's RAP conditions were as follows: (1) to explore options on how best to structure the regional boundaries in this area; and (2) to consider for inclusion in the IRWM planning effort nearby "gap" areas, not covered by the Kern County, Poso Creek, Tule River, Kaweah River, or Southern Sierra IRWM Regions.

In 2013, the RWMG provided evidence to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) that they have discussed with Kaweah River Basin and considered DWR's recommendations and have determined that it is in the best interest of both regions to prepare two IRWM Plans specific to each river basin. The two regions will also be extending their coordinated efforts by merging the Advisory Committees of the two IRWMs, combine project development and evaluation, develop a process to delineate the needs and capabilities of entities within the combined subbasins, and conduct a review of this structure in five years to assess its success.

#### **Conclusions - Accepted**

The RWMG has addressed the conditions included in the 2009 RAP decision. The RWMG is encouraged to continue to cooperate and coordinate with neighboring IRWM regions to ensure that IRWM planning and implementations efforts progress in a complementary and coordinated manner.